

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NGA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NGA Hydrographic Products Catalog, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NGA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Homeland Security), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NGA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Website, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Information Division	301-227-3370	287-3370	301-227-4211
World-Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Fleet Liaison Officer	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-4211
Maritime Safety Information Website	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3, 4, 5	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 6 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Science Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731
Distribution Issues	301-227-7652	287-7652	301-227-4211

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nga.mil>). For your convenience NGA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use NavNotices@nga.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use SDPUBS@nga.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use webmaster_nss@nga.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NGA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated. Marine Information Report and Suggestion sheets received during the past week were submitted by the following observers:

Observer	Ship/Organization
Second Officer Roy Valentine	M/V NEW RIVER
QMSN Kayla D. Edenshaw	USS FORT MCHENRY

Cover Photo: The **USS SLATER (DE-766)** is a Canon Class Destroyer Escort launched on February 13, 1944 and commissioned on May 1, 1944. Of the 565 Destroyer Escorts built during World War II, the **USS SLATER** is the only one remaining afloat in the United States and the last one with original battle armament and configuration. She has a displacement of 1,200 tons, is 306 feet long with a beam of 36 feet and carried a crew of 216 men when commissioned. The **USS SLATER** was named after Frank O. Slater of Alabama, a sailor killed aboard the **USS SAN FRANCISCO** during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. The **USS SLATER** saw service in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II. She was decommissioned in 1946 and was transferred to Greece on March 1, 1951. The **USS SLATER** served in the Hellenic Navy until 1991, when she was donated to the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association (DESA). She was returned to New York in 1993 and was transferred to her permanent homeport of Albany, New York in October 1997. The **USS SLATER** now serves as a living museum and is being maintained by a crew of dedicated volunteers.